

GATEWAY *to* COLLEGE

NATIONAL NETWORK



*A nationally recognized education
model serving dropout youth*

Our Mission

- ◆ **Gateway to College empowers youth who have dropped out of high school or are not on track to graduate to earn a diploma and dual credit in a supportive college environment**



A Good Idea Takes Off

- ◆ Portland Community College developed the initial Gateway to College model in 2000
- ◆ In 2003, the Gates Foundation invited PCC to become an intermediary of the Early College High School Initiative
- ◆ Gateway to College has a social justice agenda to provide a path to post-secondary success for underserved youth—in particular, underperforming students of color and students in poverty who have not previously had dual-credit opportunities

Creating a Network of Partners

- ♦ **The Gateway to College National Network is now an independent non-profit organization that serves all of the participating colleges**
- ♦ **The GtC National Network includes 27 colleges in 16 states, partnering with over 100 school districts**



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Essential Elements

Gateway to College programs all follow 10 Essential Elements which:

- ◆ Provide guidance for the service we provide to students
- ◆ Ensure consistency of model design



Essential Elements Of Gateway To College

Sustainable Partnerships. Gateway is self-sustaining through K-12, college, and community partnerships

College-based. Gateway programs are an integral part of the college

Dual Credit. Gateway courses align to allow dual credit (high school and college)



Essential Elements Of Gateway To College

Student Selection. Gateway students meet basic eligibility requirements to be well positioned for success

Student Progress. Gateway students begin in a learning community and then transition into college classes on the comprehensive campus

Staffing. Gateway staff is experienced with and passionate about serving dropout youth



Essential Elements Of Gateway To College

Collaboration. Gateway programs rely on a team-based approach to student success

Teaching and Learning. Gateway curriculum builds academic and life skills and is a catalyst for scaffolded growth

Student Support. Student support is woven into the fabric of Gateway both in and out of the classroom

Professional Growth. Gateway programs have a strong culture of professional development

Student Progress

Gateway to College Experience: Up to 3 Years

Gateway Foundation

One Quarter or Semester
Developmental Ed Courses
College Skills Course

Gateway Continuation (comprehensive campus)

Multiple Quarters or Semesters
College Coursework to Meet High School Diploma requirements
Advanced Coursework Toward Career Major

Graduation
&
Further
College

**Academic and Personal Support
Continues During the Entire Time Students are Enrolled**

Student Eligibility Profile

- ◆ Between 16 and 20 years old
- ◆ Out of school or on the verge of dropping out
- ◆ Behind in high school credits (for age and grade level)
- ◆ GPA of 2.0 or below
- ◆ Lives in an eligible school district
- ◆ Expressed goal to complete high school diploma

Network-Wide

Average Age: 17.1 yrs

Average High School GPA: 1.65

Average High School Credits at Entry: 41.4%
Of credits needed for diploma

The Gateway Population

- ◆ 59% are students of color
- ◆ 51% are male
- ◆ 73% are first-generation college-goers
- ◆ 16% have at least one parent without a high school diploma
- ◆ 26% don't know the highest level of education completed by their father
- ◆ 9% state homelessness was a reason for dropping out of high school
- ◆ 25% cite health problems not related to drugs and alcohol as a reason
- ◆ 71% have an academic goal of a BA or higher



Students are looking for change

- ◆ Despite struggling previously, students are hopeful and optimistic about their futures
- ◆ In adult learning environments, with curriculum that is relevant to their lives and their futures, students become engaged in their education

Gateway to College Results

- ◆ ***Improved attendance:*** Despite very poor attendance in high school, Gateway to College students have an overall average attendance rate of 87% in their college courses
- ◆ ***Improved academic success:*** Despite multiple barriers to success, GtC students pass 78% of the courses they attempted (DE and transfer level)
- ◆ ***Changed relationships with adults:*** Our students tell us that their relationships with program staff have changed their attitudes toward school and changed their lives

Academic progress

When compared with a baseline group of college students who have already earned a High School Diploma or GED, Gateway students attain:

- ◆ Higher success rates for developmental math and English courses¹
- ◆ Higher success rates for students passing out of developmental course sequences to transfer-level classes²

^{1,2} Gerlaugh, K., Thompson, L., Boylan, H. & Davis, H. (2007).

National Study of Developmental Education II: Baseline Data for Community Colleges.

Research in Developmental Education. 20 (4) Retrieved from: www.ncde.appstate.edu

Gateway Network Membership

Partner colleges receive:

- On-site training for Gateway staff
- Technical assistance with curriculum alignment and program implementation
- Program materials and course guidelines
- Instructional coaching for college faculty
- Ongoing professional development
- Data analysis and program evaluation

GATEWAY *to* COLLEGE

“Focusing on my peers... has always been a big problem for me. I love how college people tend to focus on academics instead of socialization.”



“Gateway to College saved my life.”



“This program is so different than high school. I feel challenged academically, and that is something I haven’t felt in a long time.”